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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 20 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 19 and 20 August 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as documents of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under the agenda item 16 "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Enclosure 1
Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

On the statement by the NATO Foreign Ministerial Session of 19 August 2008

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia welcomes the statement adopted by the NATO Foreign Ministerial Session on the situation in Georgia.

A special reference should be made to the Alliance's unqualified support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Of paramount importance to Georgia is NATO's firm position on the urgency of unconditional implementation of the ceasefire agreement and immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its gratitude to the member States of the Alliance for their readiness to render humanitarian and economic assistance to Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia commends the Alliance's decision to set up a NATO-Georgia Commission and expresses readiness to start, after reaching an agreement on respective modalities, active cooperation in this format in near future.

Georgia is determined to continue cooperation with the Alliance within the framework of intensified dialogue on membership issues and expresses hope that its relations with NATO will move to a qualitatively higher level of Membership Action Plan (MAP).

Tbilisi, 20 August 2008

Enclosure 2
Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The representatives of the occupation armies and the separatist's criminal regime are continuing the massacre of the local Georgian population

Under the conditions of the military-occupation regime established by the Russian Federation in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia and its adjacent zones, the representatives of the occupation armies and the separatist's criminal regime are continuing the massacre of the local Georgian population.

According to our data, at this time the separatist's criminal regime is holding several hundreds of Georgian citizens, including the aged people and women, as hostages.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community to take all necessary measures in order to gain the unconditional release of the hostages. First of all, we strongly consider giving a possibility to the representatives of the International Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to visit hostages and take necessary immediate measures for their unconditional release.

Tbilisi, 19 August 2008

Enclosure 3
Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) adopted a decision on increasing the number of military monitoring officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia by up to 100

On 19 August 2008 the Permanent Council of the OSCE adopted a decision on increasing the number of military monitoring officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia by up to 100. The OSCE Member States have decided that 20 military monitoring officers will be deployed immediately in the areas adjacent to South Ossetia. As regards the additional military monitoring officers, the modalities for their deployment are to be proposed by the OSCE Chairmanship, Finland, without delay.

By deployment of additional OSCE military monitoring officers in Georgia, the international mechanism is starting to operate as stipulated by the ceasefire accord signed by the Georgian and Russian sides under the mediation of the President of France. According to paragraph 5 of the accord, "while awaiting an international mechanism, the Russian forces will implement additional security measures" in the conflict zone.

Furthermore, the deployment of the OSCE military monitoring officers in Georgia implies that the Russian Federation, first of all, must withdraw unconditionally and without delay all its military forces from Georgia, and in parallel to this, immediately stop implementing aforementioned "additional security measures" carried out by so-called peacekeepers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia would like to underline the active input and leading role of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, without which it would be impossible to reach consensus on such decision. The Georgian side demands that the Russian Federation comply with its obligations in good faith and abstain from impeding further decisions, essential for meeting all obligations under the ceasefire accord.

Tbilisi, 19 August 2008